

Abstract

Introduction

Displaced populations due to disasters often inevitably seek refuge in evacuation camps. Similarly, most of those displaced following 2004 Tsunami had to live in temporary shelters set up in the affected districts of Sri Lanka.

These camps usually accommodate a large number of people in a limited space, leading to overcrowding and poor hygiene. Therefore, they are efficient environments for the colonization with potential respiratory bacterial pathogens in the nasopharynx of inhabitants, particularly children living in the camps.

Objectives

1. To describe demographic characteristics of Tsunami affected children living in Tsunami evacuation camps
2. To identify types of potential respiratory bacterial pathogens in the nasopharynx among Tsunami affected children living in tsunami evacuation camps and among the children in the control group
3. To determine and compare the prevalence of nasopharyngeal carriage of potential respiratory bacterial pathogens in Tsunami affected children living in camps in the Galle district and that in children in the control group